

Message Text

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70

ORIGIN NEA-16

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NEA/P-MR. SHERMAN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

INFO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

UNCLAS STATE 152133

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS:ENRG, OVIP (SIMON, WILLIAM)

SUBJECT: WHITE HOUSE PRESS CONFERENCE REMARKS ON SIMON

TRIP, JULY 12

REF: STATE 150056

1. FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM PRESS CONFERENCE HELD
MORNING OF JULY 12 WITH WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
GERALD WARREN:

QTE: THE OTHER DAY WHEN YOU WERE TELLING US ABOUT
MR. SIMON'S TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST, YOU MIGHT EVEN
HAVE DENIED THAT HE WAS GOING TO GO THERE TO NEGOTIATE
OIL PRICES.

MR. WARREN: THAT IS RIGHT. I DID NOT DENY IT BUT IT
IS NOT A PART OF HIS CHARTER.

Q. HIS CHARTER?

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WARREN: THAT IS RIGHT.

Q. MY UNDERSTANDING IS THAT THAT VERY DAY DURING THE MEETING THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD WITH HIS COUNSELLORS THAT HE SUGGESTED TO THEM -- THEY WERE TALKING ABOUT INFLATION -- THAT HE SUGGESTED THAT HE HOPED MR. SIMON

Q. (CONT'D) WOULD COME BACK FROM THE MIDDLE EAST WITH A REDUCTION IN OIL PRICES.

WARREN: WELL, WITHOUT ADDRESSING WHAT THE PRESIDENT SAID IN THAT MEETING, LET ME JUST SAY THIS, THAT WE HOPE AND FEEL, OR WE HOPE THAT THE COST OF FUEL, INTERNATIONALLY, AND WITHIN THIS COUNTRY, OF COURSE, IS REFLECTIVE OF THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION, WILL STABILIZE. THAT IS OUR POSITION.

MR. SIMON, I BELIEVE, ADDRESSED THIS BEFORE HE LEFT. HE SAID, HE HIMSELF SAID THAT HE WAS NOT GOING TO GO OVER THERE TO NEGOTIATE. I SAID, WHEN I WAS TALKING ABOUT HIS TRIP, THAT HE WOULD BE TALKING ABOUT ENERGY MATTERS, OBVIOUSLY. IT IS OF CONCERN.

Q. WILL THE FUEL PRICES BE LOWERED AS A RESULT OF HIS TRIP?

WARREN: I THINK I WOULD RATHER LEAVE IT WHERE I HAVE LEFT IT AND NOT BUILD ANY EXPECTATIONS FOR MR. SIMON'S TRIP THAT I SHOULD NOT BUILD. KISSINGER

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